

Breakout Group 2

Land Use Planning in the Context of Water Quality

The following questions are intended to help prompt your thinking. Feel free to provide any feedback that you think would be constructive.

1. A preliminary comment on Section 5.3 indicated that the Guidance implies local governments have not been thinking about water quality impacts in the context of land use planning. The commentor indicates this is not true. Should the Guidance presume that most local governments are fairly advanced in how they address water quality protection during the land use planning process? Are local governments generally using quantified analyses for gauging the water quality impacts of alternative future land use scenarios? If not, are most local governments open to adopting and applying such analyses if tools are available?
2. Section 5.3 on land use planning does not recommend any specific quantified loading analysis tools. The loading estimates in Appendix E, in combination with future land use scenarios, could be used a simple quantified analysis framework. Other tools are also available. Should the Guidance suggest using these tools, or should the Advisory Group and State make that determination after further discussion of the options and implications?
3. If the State could provide technical assistance on conducting loading analyses, without dictating policy choices, would local governments be generally receptive?
4. Section 5.3.4 outlines several levels of analysis associated with land use planning (See the pyramid). Can you identify linkages between these levels of land use planning and TMDL implementation? Can you suggest which of these levels of land use planning should be the greatest priority for attention by the TMDL Implementation Advisory Group?
5. What practical, general guidance on “land use planning and TMDL implementation” would you recommend?
6. What are the most useful analytical tools that you use in considering water quality in the context of land use planning?